Export of Akash, Trishul, Nag and Brahmos

1682. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Research and Development Organisation, after getting approval from Government, has decided to export Akash, Trishul, Nag and Brahmos to other countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many countries in Africa, Gulf and South East Asia are very keen in purchasing the above missiles;

(c) if so, whether the DRDO has prepared any action plan for export of these missiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Missiles being developed by Department of Defence Research and Development have the export potential. Government will take appropriate decision at suitable time for export of missiles, to friendly countries. However, Department of Defence Research and Development has not been contacted by any country for the purchase of missiles till now.

(d) Does not arise.

Training of IAF pilots by RAF, UK

1683. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Indian Air Force pilots have successfully completed fast jet flying course from RAF, UK, to fly Hawks which India is going to get from UK;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is going to send any additional pilots to UK for training;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when India is going to receive the first batch of Hawks from UK?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A total number of twenty three (23) Indian Air Force(IAF) Pilots from the first four batches have successfully completed training on Hawk aircraft.

(c) and (d) The plan is to send a total number of seventy five (75) IAF pilots in twelve batches for training to the United Kingdom(UK). Presently, seventeen (17) IAF pilots are undergoing training in UK and the next batch of six IAF pilots is slated to depart for UK on 27th March 2006. The training is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2008.

(e) The delivery of the Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer is expected to commence from September 2007.

Replacement of obsolete warships

†1684. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of warships have become obsolete and there is a need to replace them;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Defence has formulated any scheme for replacing the said warships and for modernization of Navy fleet;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Warships are inducted in the Navy as replacement for decommissioned platforms and for augmenting the strength of the Force. This is a continuous process based on the threat perception and international security environment according to which modernization plans of the Navy are formulated.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.